

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-18 and 20 remain pending in this application. Claim 19 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim Objections

This will confirm that claim 19 has been canceled. The cancellation of claim 19 was discussed with the Examiner at the Interview on January 9, 2007.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-5, 18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by Kashiwazaki US Patent No. 6,570,605.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 103

Claims 6-13 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kashiwazaki in view of Kageyama et al. US Patent No. 6,504,619.

Claims 14-15 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kashiwazaki in view of Hashimoto et al. US Patent No. 6,804,016.

Claims 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(as) as being unpatentable over Kashiwazaki and Hashimoto in view of Kageyama.

For the reasons set forth hereafter it is submitted that remaining 1-18 and 20 as amended are patentable.

Patentability of the Claims

The courtesy of Examiners Mark Milia and King Poon at the interview with the Applicant's undersigned attorney on January 9, 2007 is gratefully acknowledged. The substance of the interview is believed adequately set forth in the Interview Summary issued by the Examiner and in the remarks which follow.

As discussed at the interview, a major difference between the primary reference, Kashiwazaki (US Patent No. 6,570,605) and Applicant's invention is that in Applicant's invention a receiving buffer 22 is located within and is part of the printer whereas in Kashiwazaki et al., there is no such buffer located within the printer.

In the Response to Arguments section of the office action of August 8, 2006, the Examiner referred to the spooler 303 in Kashiwazaki as performing the same function as the receiving buffer 22 of Applicant's invention. In Kashiwazaki, however, the spooler 303 is located in a host computer and not in the printer.

As further discussed with the Examiner, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 18 and 20 to clarify that the receiving buffer is located within the printer and that received data and control data are stored in the receiving buffer without analysis. It is submitted that independent claims 1, 18 and 20, and claims dependent therefrom are patentable over the cited references.

Thus, Applicant's invention, as now set forth in amended claim 1 calls for a printer having a receiving buffer in which received print data and control data are stored therein without analysis as received data in the order of receipt, an executing section configured to read the received data from the receiving buffer in the order of storage and develop the received data into an image if the received data is the print data and execute a control

command if the received data is a control command of the control data and a pre-processing section configured to pre-read the received data stored in the receiving buffer before the executing section reads the received data and, when a specific control command of the control data from the pre-read receipt data is found, the pre-processing section executes a procedure corresponding to the detected control command prior to the executing section.

Independent claim 18 relating to a printer control method and independent claim 20 relating to a computer-readable medium storing a program for controlling a printer have limitations similar to claim 1. With respect to claim 20, it is specifically noted that the description of "a recording medium" has been amended to read -- a computer-readable medium -- . This amendment was made at the suggestion of the Examiners.

With further regard to Kashiwazaki, this reference does not disclose a pre-processing section as called for in claim 1. Kashiwazaki discloses an interruption printing process, but the interruption process is quite different from the pre-processing of claim 1. In claim 1 of the present application, the pre-processing section pre-reads the received data stored in the receiving buffer. Therefore, the printer of claim 1 does not need to analyze the received data before storing the received data to the receiving buffer.

By contrast, in Kashiwazaki a job controller 306 analyzes the received data before storing the received data to job memory 257. See, for example, column 4, lines 27-43 and Figure 3 of Kashiwazaki. In Kashiwazaki, the data from the host computer 200 includes PDL data A and job control data B, and the job controller 306 analyzes the job control data B and also stores the PDL data A in the job memory 257. As a result, the job controller 306 must have a high capability to analyze the received data.

Thus, Applicant's invention, as now defined in amended independent claims 1, 18 and 20, is patentable over Kashiwazaki.

The remainder of the claims are dependent claims and are patentable at least for the reasons asserted above for claim 1. Further, the dependent claims set forth additional limitations not shown or suggested in the prior art. For example, claim 3 sets forth that the read-out position changing section functions such that the position in the receiving buffer for the executing section to read the received data is jumped to the position next to the cancel command when the pre-processing section has executed a cancel command. Kashiwazaki discloses a job cancel command, for example at column 5, lines 26-28. However, there is no disclosure of a read-out position changing section which functions as claimed in claim 3.

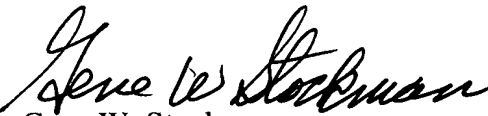
With respect to claim 6, the pre-processing section is claimed as being realized by a pre-read execute processing incorporated in a main task, which reads out received data from the receiving buffer according to a pre-read pointer, counts up the pre-read pointer every time, and functions, when the cancel command is found from the received data, to cancel the print based on the print data received prior to the cancel command. Kashiwazaki discloses a job controller 306 and a DPL analyzer 307, however these sections are not realized by a main task, and the DPL analyzer 307 does not find a cancel command, and further does not cancel printing based on the print data received prior to the cancel command when the cancel command is found. Further, the reference does not disclose a read-pointer for the read-out task and a pre-read pointer, as claimed by Applicants.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants contend that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Mattingly, Stanger, Malur & Brundidge, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (referencing attorney docket no. KYO-100).

Respectfully submitted,


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